

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL, INCLUDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION, TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKAGE BETWEEN IDAHO'S PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND IDAHO'S WORKFORCE NEEDS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho has a significant opportunity to help improve the wage levels of its workforce; and

WHEREAS, Idaho employers experience significant difficulty in filling critical positions due to a shortage of workers having appropriate job skills, experience and education; and

WHEREAS, significant employment opportunities exist in expanding fields such as aerospace technology, health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, accounting, computer controlled tool and die production and other professional careers; and

WHEREAS, well paid jobs are also immediately available for skilled workers in diesel mechanics, auto body repair and mechanics, carpentry, industrial electricians, construction management, advanced welding skills for stainless steel and aluminum, production of carbon fiber products and other mechanical trades; and

WHEREAS, appropriate basic education to enhance job skills is available in Idaho high schools, technical postsecondary schools and Idaho community colleges; and

WHEREAS, many employers offer advanced skill training through specially designed apprentice and intern programs; and

WHEREAS, Idaho colleges and universities offer enhanced education in all professional, engineering, medical, business, computer science and related technologies; and

WHEREAS, there is a challenge establishing effective communication between industry and our educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 K-12 Educational System Interim Committee determined that the Legislature, as policymakers should ask experts in the fields of education, commerce and labor to collaborate in development of an action plan to fully serve the economic needs of Idaho citizens and the economic opportunities of Idaho business and industry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that members of the Idaho State Board of Education, representatives from the Idaho Department of Commerce and the Idaho Department of Labor, should convene a working group to develop a robust plan including proposed measures and benchmarks to strengthen the ties between our public education systems and Idaho's business and industry. Such a plan

1 should be submitted to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Legisla-
2 ture.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in their collaboration and development of
4 the plan, the representatives from the Department of Commerce, the Depart-
5 ment of Labor and the Board of Education should invite representatives from
6 Idaho businesses and industry as well as educators in our K-12 and postsec-
7 ondary systems to participate and share their expertise and insight into
8 proposals that will strengthen the link between Idaho's public educational
9 systems and our workforce needs.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a plan should include policy recommen-
11 dations, including proposed legislation, to implement the provisions of the
12 plan.